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TITLE: **LIGHT REDIRECTING FILMS AND FILM SYSTEMS**
(METHOD OF SELECTING A LIGHT REDIRECTING FILM)

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/909,318, filed July 19, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,752,202, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/256,275, filed February 23, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,712,481, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to light redirecting films and film systems for redirecting light from a light source toward a direction normal to the plane of the films.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Light redirecting films are thin transparent or translucent optical films or substrates that redistribute the light passing through the films such that the distribution of the light exiting the films is directed more normal to the surface of the films. Heretofore, light redirecting films were provided with prismatic grooves, lenticular grooves, or pyramids on the light exit surface of the films which changed the angle of the film/air interface for light rays exiting the films and caused the components of the incident light distribution traveling in a plane perpendicular to the refracting surfaces of the grooves to be redistributed in a direction more normal to the surface of the films. Such light redirecting films are used, for example, with liquid crystal displays, used in laptop computers, word processors, avionic displays, cell phones, PDAs and the like to make the displays brighter.

The light entrance surface of the films usually has a transparent or matte finish depending on the visual appearance desired. A matte finish produces a softer image but is not as bright due to the additional scattering and resultant light loss caused by the matte or diffuse surface.